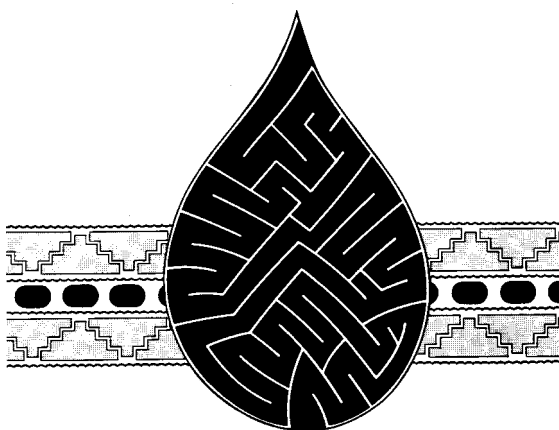
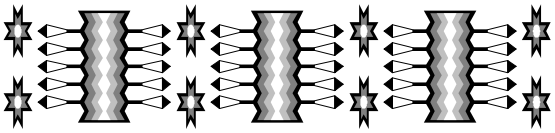


**EPA The Environmental  
Protection Agency's  
Clean Water Act  
Indian Set-Aside  
Grant Program**



*This we know. The Earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the Earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites one family. Whatever befalls the Earth, befalls the sons of the Earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself. All things are connected.*

Attributed to Chief Seattle, 1854



## **What Is the EPA CWA Indian Set-Aside Grant Program?**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manages a grant program for the construction of wastewater facilities for Indian tribes and Alaska Native Villages (ANVs) called the Clean Water Act (CWA) Indian Set-Aside (ISA) Grant Program. The 1987 Amendments to the CWA established the program and authorized EPA to administer these grants. The program is administered in cooperation with the Indian Health Service (IHS). This partnership maximizes the technical resources available through both agencies to address tribal sanitation needs. To date, the EPA ISA Program has disbursed more than \$72 million in funding for 150 projects.

### **Who is Eligible?**

All federally recognized tribes, ANVs, and tribes on former reservations in Oklahoma are eligible for ISA grant funds.

### **What Types of Projects are Eligible?**

The ISA Program provides grants for planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment facilities. No matching funds are required. Up to 100% of eligible project costs can be funded. Typical projects funded are for:

- Interceptor sewers
- Wastewater treatment facilities (conventional or alternative)
- Infiltration/inflow correction
- Collector sewers
- Major sewer rehabilitation
- On-site systems (e.g., septics)

## **How Does the ISA Program Work?**

The ISA Program uses IHS's Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) to identify high priority wastewater projects for funding. To be eligible to receive an ISA Program grant, tribes must first identify their needs to the SDS. Both agencies work together to determine the projects to be funded, based on the ranking of projects in SDS and available EPA funding. EPA will notify the tribe when a project is selected for funding. Procedures for applying for an EPA grant are outlined in EPA's *Guidelines and Requirements for Applying for Grants from the Indian Set-Aside Program* (April 1989). A copy of this document can be obtained from the Regional ISA Coordinators listed on the back of this brochure.



## **What Is the SDS?**

The Indian Sanitation Facilities Act, passed in 1959, required the IHS to provide water supply, sewage, and solid waste disposal facilities for American Indian and Alaskan Native homes and communities. IHS created the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program to provide these services.

Congress then passed the Indian Health Care Improvement Act Amendments in 1988. These Amendments required IHS to address Indian water and wastewater needs and report them to Congress annually. To fulfill this requirement, the SDS was created to help IHS's 12 Area offices assess tribal sanitation deficiencies and report

them to Congress.

The SDS has five deficiency levels, ranging from communities that need only routine maintenance to communities that lack adequate wastewater facilities.

### **When Are the Data Collected for SDS?**

Information about tribal sanitation needs is collected through the SDS by the 12 IHS Area offices. Tribes should contact their IHS Area offices directly to discuss the data collection process; however, some key dates are as follows:

- April to May: identify sanitation needs to IHS Area offices
- June: deadline for submission of needs (Check with your Area office to determine the exact date)
- September to November: review of SDS submissions
- December: final SDS priority lists available

### **Where To Get More Information**

The EPA Regional ISA Coordinators can provide information on resources available to the tribes for developing wastewater projects. One of these resources is the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC). Funded by EPA, the NSFC provides information and technical assistance services for small flows wastewater treatment systems. They offer materials to help plan, design, construct, and operate facilities to meet community environmental needs. Emphasis is placed on finding practical and affordable solutions for “small flows” wastewater problems.

For more information on the NSFC, telephone 1 800 624-8301. To find out about other available resources, please call your EPA Regional ISA Coordinator.



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